

VOLUME XV

**Written Reports Number 733 Through 754
Of Confidential Informant [redacted] (Chicago)**

b2

Comments:

(1) The reports in this volume are either handwritten or typewritten and are signed "Eve Coffee," which is the code name utilized by the informant.

(2) Reports Number 734, 740 and 752 contain information concerning Claude Lightfoot, a member of the National Committee (NC), Communist Party, USA (CPUSA).

(3) Reports Number 744 and 751 contain information concerning other members of the NC, CPUSA.

Recommended Excisions:

(1) The general comments set out in my letter dated January 22, 1963, in regard to production and recommended excisions should be applied to the reports in Volume XV.

(2) Reports Number 733 and 747 relate to expenses incurred by the informant and should be excised in their entirety.

b2

ENCLOSURE [redacted]

Mr. J. Walter Yeagley
Assistant Attorney General
Director, FBI

March 5, 1963

1 - Mr. Ryan

UNITED STATES v. COMMUNIST PARTY, USA
(VIOLATIONS OF SECTION 8,
INTERNAL SECURITY ACT OF 1950)
INTERNAL SECURITY - C
INTERNAL SECURITY ACT OF 1950

LOLA BELLE HOLMES
CONFIDENTIAL INFORMANT ☐ (CHICAGO)

On December 17, 1962, you were furnished Photostats of the written, oral and administrative reports of Confidential Informant ☐ (Chicago) who is identical to Lola Belle Holmes who testified as a Government witness before the Subversive Activities Control Board in Chicago, Illinois, on January 24, 1963.

Attached is one volume containing Photostats of 22 additional written or typewritten reports prepared by Lola Belle Holmes subsequent to those previously made available to the Department. These reports are numbered 733 through 754 and should be added to Volume XV of the written reports of this informant already in your possession.

The general comments set forth in my letter dated January 22, 1963, in regard to the production and recommended excisions of documents pertaining to Confidential Informant ☐ (Chicago) apply equally to the additional reports of this informant forwarded herewith.

Pertinent comments or recommendations for specific excisions in these 22 additional reports are set out in the attached memorandum which relates to Volume XV of this informant's reports.

Enclosures - 23

100-372598

2 - Chicago (Enc. - 2) (2 copies of the above-mentioned memorandum)

DR:erc

MAR 11 1963

RECORDED
MAR 6 1963

EXHIBIT YELLOW

Memorandum to Mr. Evans
Re: Joan Annette Martin

including approximately 76 Security Index subjects, members of the CP, USA, national leadership, the CP of Illinois leading bodies and rank and file members. From December 10, 1958, to present, she has been compensated for services rendered and expenses.

OBSERVATION:

Lola Belle Holmes continues to furnish valuable timely information pertaining to communist members and activities.

Bureau files contain no unfavorable information pertaining to the employee.

ACTION:

This memorandum should be routed to Domestic Intelligence Division for information. The employee's Standard Form 85 will be marked, "No Derogatory Data," and returned to the Civil Service Commission.

A copy of the Standard Form 85 will be furnished Chicago under cover letter for information. Letter attached.

1 - Mr. Belmont
1 - Mr. Evans
1 - Mr. Cleveland
1 - Mr. Blader

Mr. Evans

March 1, 1962

W. V. Cleveland

JOAN ANNETTE MARTIN, nee Wiley
aka Mrs. Nathaniel J. Martin
Clerk
Bureau of the Public Debt
Treasury Department
Chicago, Illinois
SECURITY OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

PURPOSE:

To advise:

Bureau is in receipt of a Standard Form 85 (Security Investigation Data for Non-sensitive Position) concerning above-mentioned individual for processing under Executive Order 10450 (Federal Employee Security Order). Bureau files indicate her mother is a current symbol security informant of the Chicago Office; therefore, Standard Form 85 being returned marked, "No Derogatory Data."

BACKGROUND:

Employee was born July 20, 1932, at Shreveport, Louisiana.

A review of Bureau files discloses employee's mother, Lola Belle Holmes, voluntarily appeared during February, 1953, at the Chicago Office and complained she was experiencing difficulty in her union (International Ladies Garment Workers) due to her past political activities in the Progressive Party (PP) of Illinois during 1948. She stated she was not and never had been a Communist Party (CP) member nor did she knowingly attend any CP functions, although she has now realized the PP was dominated by the CP. She volunteered to furnish information to the FBI. Since 1956, she has been a member of the Independent Voters of Illinois and the Midwest Committee for Protection of Foreign Born (MCPFB). She became a CP member of Illinois on August 27, 1957, and is currently a member who reports on 111 individuals
Enc.

1 - Mr. W. C. Sullivan
1 - Mr. J. D. Donohue

1 - [redacted]
DJS:ank
(8)

141 MAR 5 1962

62 MAR 6 1962 200

DIRECTOR, FBI [REDACTED]

January 25, 1960

SAC, CHICAGO [REDACTED]

**SECURITY INFORMANT COVERAGE
CHICAGO DIVISION**

This will advise that at the second session of the Illinois District Communist Party Convention held on January 24, 1960, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
CONF. INFO

A State Committee of 31 members was provided for; however, at the meeting of January 24, 1960, only 30 of these members were elected. A provision was made by the State Committee that the 31st member of this Committee would be the Chairman of the National Groups Commission of the Illinois District, who as yet has not been named.

All the District Committee members elected on January 24, 1960, have been identified. Sufficient copies of this letter are being furnished the Bureau [REDACTED]

Submitted for information.

11 - Bureau (RM)
1 - Chicago
CMF:LMA
(12)

[REDACTED]
NOT RECORDED
199 FEB 3 1960

62 FEB 9 1960

CG

b2

12. Indoctrination Against Disclosure

Every opportunity is utilized to caution the informant about the necessity for not disclosing any relationship with the Bureau.

13. All Necessary Action Taken on Information Furnished

All necessary action has been taken or is being taken on information furnished and it has been channeled or is in the process.

CG [redacted]

b2

Informant furnished information relating to the intentions of the above organization to project a visitation of thousands to the political conventions of the major parties.

Informant furnished information of the projection by the Committee on Racial Equality of picketing actions in support of the "sit-in" activity by Negro youth at lunch-counters in department stores in the South.

9. Number of persons concerning Whom Informant reported and their importance

Approximately 225 Security Index Subjects including members of the CP, USA, national committee, members of the top CP of Illinois bodies as well as rank and file members.

10. Informant's potential for advancement

Excellent.

As was pointed out previously, this informant has been described as a Negro female to be developed into the top leadership ~~more~~. Due to her participation at the policy-making level, in the CP of Ill. State Board and CP of Ill. State Committee, this development will be a continuous process. Of significant importance is the selection of the informant for a cadre training program for leadership. These factors indicate this informant may move forward into more and more significant work in the CP of Illinois.

Go's notes
in ink
mgr

11. Stability and Reliability

This informant appears to be excellent in stability and reliability. Informant indicates no problems concerning her relationship with this Bureau. Informant continues to exhibit a whole-hearted desire to help the Bureau to the utmost.

CG

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6. Meetings Attended and Other Activity

| | |
|---|---|
| Wagenknecht Section Convention | 1 |
| " " Reconvened Convention | 1 |
| " " Committee | 8 |
| CP of Ill. State Convention | 1 |
| " Reconvened State Convention | 1 |
| CP, USA, National Convention | 1 |
| CP of Ill. National Convention | 1 |
| Delegates meetings | 2 |
| CP, USA, Midwest Negro Commission | 1 |
| CP of Ill. State Board | 1 |
| CP of Ill. State Committee | 2 |
| CP of Ill. Press Directors | 3 |
| CP of Ill. "Left" caucus | 1 |
| CP of Ill. arm in National Assoc. for Advancement of Colored People | 1 |
| CP of Ill. arm in the Alliance of Negro Trade Unionists | 1 |
| Midwest Committee for Protection of Foreign Born Executive Comm. | 1 |
| Executive Board, Afro-American Heritage Association | 2 |
| Midwest Conference of Leagues of Negro Voters | 1 |
| Committee on Racial Equality | 2 |
| Alliance of Negro Trade Unionists | 2 |
| National Association for the Advancement of Colored People | 4 |
| 40th Anniversary Celebration, CP of Ill. | 1 |

7. Reports Submitted

| | |
|--------------------------|----|
| Written | 12 |
| Oral, reduced to writing | 28 |
| | 40 |

8. Information Furnished of Unusual Value

Informant has been participating in and furnishing information relating to the reaction in the CP of Ill. to the formation of the Alliance of Negro Trade Unionists.

CG

b2

4. Summary of Information Furnished

This informant is furnishing information relating to decisions of the State Board and State Committee, CP of Illinois, to be carried out by the membership.

Informant is and has been furnishing information relating to the progress of the "Worker" drive on section and district level.

Informant furnishes information relating to membership in the CP of Illinois.

Informant has furnished a continuous development of the Wagenknecht Section of the CP of Illinois which has been accused of continuing to hold factionalist leanings among certain of its members.

Informant attended the Section and State Conventions, CP of Illinois, and the 17th National Convention, CP, USA, and she was able to furnish a body of decisions relating to the development of the CP at each level.

Informant has furnished a continuous account of developments in the field which is receiving an increasing attention from the CP at all levels. This is the development of the efforts of the CP to work in and through the broad movement for Negro rights, and particularly in the development of the Alliance of Negro Trade Unionists which has been described as a creature of A. PHILLIP RANDOLPH of the Pullman Car Porters' Union and the movement of Negro Voters Leagues and the actions sponsored by the Committee on Racial Equality in support of the "sit-in" movement of the Negro youth in department store lunch-counters in the South.

5. Amounts Paid

Period

11/13/59 - 12/12/59

12/13/59 - 1/12/60

1/13/60 - 2/12/60

2/13/60 - 3/12/60

Services

Expenses

NOTE: in first period
of expenses and
in the second period
were expenses approved
separately by the Bureau

b2

OG [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] has so gained the confidence of the officers of the CP of Illinois that when they were faced with the need for the development of a Negro woman for top leadership, the informant was singled out. According to reports from other informants, the CP of Illinois leadership hopes to develop a Negro woman leader patterned after GERALDYNE LIGHTFOOT, CP, USA, National Committee member, and wife of CLAUDE LIGHTFOOT, Vice-Chairman, CP, USA. The leadership sees this informant as filling this need.

The no less than spectacular achievement of a top leadership position in the CP of Illinois joined with the fact that this informant devotes an outstanding amount of productive time in connection with her work, plus the fact that she is being singled out for leadership training to further her leadership position compels the following:

I recommend that the services of this informant be continued and that she be retained as a Security Informant of the Chicago Division.

I further recommend that authority be granted to increase payments for services rendered up to [REDACTED] for actual expenses incurred for a period of four months effective April 13, 1960.

2. Residence and Employment

Same

3. Current Membership in Subversive Organizations

CP of Ill.

State Board

State Committee

Negro Commission

Wagenknecht Section Committee

"

Executive Committee

"

Needle Club (Chairman)

"

Press Director

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI [REDACTED]

DATE: March 30, 1960

FROM : SAC, CHICAGO [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: CONE. INFT. [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

Remylet 11/27/59.

1. Recommendation

[REDACTED] currently is being paid up to [REDACTED] for expenses actually incurred.

A study of the work of this informant reveals that the informant occupies herself approximately 30 hours each week, excluding time spent in contacts with the contacting agent, in gathering information at the source for transmittal to this Bureau. It is apparent that with added responsibility in the CP of Illinois leadership, which is described below, the informant will be increasing this large outlay of time. It is to be remembered that the informant also occupies herself with a full-time job in the needle trades industry. The information which this informant has furnished in this past period has an added quality derived from a phenomenal rise in the CP of Illinois leadership, and this rise shows every evidence of continuing.

The status of [REDACTED] in the CP of Illinois has changed to a district leadership level since submission of relet. Following her attendance at the CP, USA, 17th National Convention, where her status changed from an Alternate Delegate to Delegate, she was selected for inclusion on the recommended slate for the CP of Illinois State Committee presented to the Reconvened CP of Illinois State Convention in January, 1960. Following her election to the State Committee, she was included on the recommended slate for the CP of Illinois State Board presented to the newly elected State Committee. She was elected to the State Board. Informant has since been included on the CP of Illinois Negro Commission.

- (2) - Bureau (REGISTERED MAIL)
 1 - Chicago
 JDR: jr
 (3)

20 APR 7 1960

Let to Chicago
4-14-60
My R. max

INT. SEC.

SAC, Chicago

RE: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

b2

NOTE ON YELLOW:

Captioned informant was authorized as a
PSI on 8-29-56 and designated a security informant
on 5-28-57.

Mr. Rozamus

SAC, Chicago [redacted]

April 14, 1960

REC-44

Director, FBI [redacted]

EX-130 [redacted]

Reurlet dated 3-30-60 recommending monthly increases in authorized payments to captioned informant from up to [redacted] for services to up to [redacted] and from up to [redacted] for expenses to up to [redacted]

Relet and Bufile disclose that captioned informant has made rapid progress in the Communist Party (CP) since becoming a member of the Party on 8-27-57. Her recent election to both the State Committee and the State Board, CP of Illinois, is noteworthy. [redacted]

In line with the rapid progress of this informant in the CP, substantial increases in authorized payments for services have been granted. After the informant became a member of the CP, authorized monthly payments were increased from [redacted] to [redacted] effective 9-13-57; from [redacted] to [redacted] effective 4-13-58; from [redacted] to [redacted] effective 8-13-58; and from [redacted] to [redacted] effective 8-13-59. A review of the payments made for services in this case by your office disclosed that beginning with the first month in which increases were granted full authorized amounts were paid for the month and continued until the next increase. In making payments to an informant you should give careful thought to keeping the amounts to a figure less than the maximum authorized so that you will always have available a specific sum which can be used to further encourage the informant to increase his production and activities on behalf of the Bureau.

MAILED 5

APR 14 1960

COMM-FBI

In view of the substantial increases in authorized payments which have been made in this case for services, particularly the last increase of [redacted] effective 8-13-59, and your continuation of payments up to maximum amounts authorized your recommendation for an increase of [redacted] for services is not being granted. Authority is granted to continue payments to [redacted] up to [redacted] for services rendered and to increase payments up to [redacted] for expenses actually incurred for a period of four months effective 4-13-60.

Tolson
Mohr
Parsons
Belmont
Callahan
DeLoach
Malone
McGuire
Rosen
Tamm
Trotter
W.C. Sullivan
Tele. Room
Ingram
Gandy

1 - J.S. Johnson (6221 IB)

SEE NOTE ON YELLOW PAGE TWO

59 APR 19 1960

TELETYPE UNIT

CG [redacted]

b2

11. Indoctrination Against Disclosure

Informant at every opportunity is reminded of the necessity for not disclosing any relationship with this Bureau. 2

12. All Necessary Action Taken on Information Furnished

All necessary action has been taken, and the information has been channeled or in the process of channelization.

13. Recommendation

It is recommended that authority be granted to continue payment to [redacted] up to [redacted] for personal services rendered plus up to [redacted] for normal expenses actually incurred for a period of four months, effective December 13, 1958. Previous authority was in these same amounts.

It is recommended that [redacted] be continued as a Security informant of the Chicago Office.

OK
San
OK

b2

CG [redacted]

b2

subjects. Also included in the total are CP National Committee members, CP of Illinois State Committee members and Flynn Section functionaries.

9. Informant's Potential for Advancement

Excellent. Informant's associations with individuals such as [redacted] and others in the Flynn section, as well as her membership in the section, and her association with JIM KELLER puts her into a position which forms a good base for future activity and selection for her assignment to higher positions. Also, in the pertinent period, informant was able to establish a closer acquaintance with CLAUDE LIGHTFOOT through her attendance at the CP of Illinois District school which in itself will help broaden the basis for informant's future advancement.

b6
b7C

10. Stability and Reliability

[redacted] appears to be excellent in her stability and reliability. She has indicated no problem regarding her relationship with the Bureau. She continues to give evidence of her desire to cooperate with this Bureau.

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For the information of the Bureau, informant as Executrix of her deceased mother's will is a party defendant to a suit in St. Louis, Missouri, to quiet title to real property bequeathed to informant and her brother by their mother. The claim which is in litigation was entered by an individual whom informant claims held title to the real property in question prior to its being transferred to her deceased mother. Informant will advise when this case comes up for trial, and she will appear. Informant has stated in connection with this litigation that while it is a matter of concern she is resigned to whatever judgment is reached by the court. There is no evidence that this suit will affect the informant's relationship with or attitude toward her cooperation with this Bureau.

CG [REDACTED]

b2

sponsored by the Lithuanian group within the MCPFB; a lecture by DR. HERSCHEL MEYER sponsored by the Modern Bookstore; a meeting sponsored by the Chicago Council of American-Soviet Friendship (CCASF) at which SCOTT NEARING spoke.

6. Reports Submitted

1. Written 47
2. Oral, reduced to writing 48

In addition, [REDACTED] furnished publications of the CP of Illinois, MCPFB, CCASF; National Lawyers Guild; Chicago Families of Smith Act Victims; American Socialist Club; and the Emergency Civil Liberties Committee. b2

7. Information Furnished of Unusual Value

a. Due to the continued association of informant with [REDACTED] and JIM KELLER, both of whom have expressed differences with the CP of Illinois leadership, [REDACTED] has been able to furnish information relating to the status of factionalism and to participate in the Flynn section caucus aimed at making concrete the position of the Flynn section with regard to its attitude toward the District leadership. b2 b6 b7C

b. Informant's attendance at the CP District classes in "Historical Materialism" has enabled informant to advise this office of the content of the course taught by CLAUDE LIGHTFOOT, CP of Illinois District Chairman.

c. Information from informant regarding the MCPFB has been used as CINAL material.

8. Approximate Number of Persons on Whom Informant Reported and Their Importance.

(97) individuals, including 64 current Security Index

CG [redacted]

b2

4. Amounts Paid

Month

Services

Expenses

6/13/58 - 7/12/58

[redacted]
(Reported
previously)

7/13/58 - 8/12/58

8/13/58 - 9/12/58

9/13/58 - 10/12/58

10/13/58 - 11/12/58

11/13/58 - 11/27/58 (To be
paid)

b2

5. Meetings Attended
and Other Activity

One meeting of the CP of Illinois Flynn Section Committee; four meetings of the Flynn Section Needle Club; six classes in "Historical Materialism" sponsored by the CP Illinois District and taught by CLAUDE LIGHTFOOT, Illinois District Chairman; a Flynn Section Caucus called to determine the section's position relating to factionalism; one meeting of the Flynn Section Education Committee; three conferences with [redacted]

[redacted] three conferences with [redacted]
[redacted] three conferences with JIM KELLER who works with the leader of the MCPFB, and who in the past has been the subject of accusations of engaging in factional activity.

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Five meetings of the MCPFB Executive Council; one meeting of the MCPFB Executive Board; five meetings of the committee established by the MCPFB to prepare a banquet to raise funds for defense of [redacted] a deportee; the [redacted] banquet; three meetings of the committee of the Chicago Families of Smith Act Victims planning a fund-raising banquet on behalf of the effort to win paroles for GIL GREEN and HENRY WINTON; the Parole Banquet itself. Informant attended a picnic of the MCPFB and a picnic

b6
b7C

Office Memorandum

GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

DATE: November 26, 1958

SAC, CHICAGO
CONF. INFT.

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

Remylet 7/23/58; remyaairtel 8/11/58.

1. Residence and Employment

Residence: Same

Employment: Part-time secretary, Midwest Committee
For Protection of Foreign-Born, (MCPFB)

See [REDACTED] For Employment AS OF 12-1-58

2. Current Membership
in Subversive Organizations

a. CP, Flynn Section, Needle Club (Secretary-treasurer)

b. MCPFB Executive Council; part-time secretary.

3. Summary of Information Furnished

[REDACTED] has furnished information concerning the CP Flynn Section Needle Club, including financial data resulting from the position the informant holds in the club; information regarding CP Education resulting from informant's attendance at the CP of Illinois District classes in October and November, 1958. As part-time secretary, MCPFB, she has furnished extensive information about the activities of this organization, including the work of the Executive Council of which informant is a member. Informant spent considerable time meeting with a committee of the MCPFB planning a banquet to raise funds for [REDACTED] under deportation orders. Informant has furnished information about the Chicago Council of American-Soviet Friendship, the Chicago Families of Smith Act Victims, the National Lawyers Guild and information relating to CP activities of individuals, including persons on the CP National Committee and the Illinois State Committee.

EX-132
Bureau (REGISTERED MAIL)
Chicago 121W, 20

APPROVED DEC 3 1958
DateMAIL ROOM ☒

60 DEC 10 1958

Johnson
331-OF

CG [redacted]

9. Informant's potential for advancement

Excellent. Informant continues her close relationship with [redacted] and [redacted] and it is believed that they will attempt to "push" her within this Section of the CP of Illinois.

b6
b7C

10. Stability and reliability

Informant's stability and reliability appeared to be excellent. She has indicated no problems regarding her position relevant to the Bureau and has expressed her desire to continue to fully cooperate with the Bureau.

It is to be noted that informant's mother died during October, 1957, and during this period informant was out of town for approximately 18 days.

11. Indoctrination against disclosure

Every opportunity has been taken to properly indoctrinate the informant against making any disclosure of his relationship with the Bureau through any media.

12. All necessary action taken on information furnished

All necessary action has been taken and the information channelized or in the process of channelization.

13. Recommendation

It is recommended that authority be granted to continue payments to this informant up to [redacted] for personal services rendered plus normal expenses actually incurred for a period of four months effective December 13, 1957.

It is recommended further that [redacted] be continued as a security informant in the Chicago Office.

*0-17 sent
12/12/57
for failing
to submit
prior to
exp. date.
R.H.H.*

CG []

| <u>Month</u> | <u>Services</u> | <u>Expenses</u> |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|
| September 13, 1957 to October 13, 1957 | [] | [] |
| October 13, 1957 to November 13, 1957 | [] | -- |

b2

Informant has not been paid for the period from November 13, 1957 to December 13, 1957.

5. Meetings attended and other activity

Meetings of CP Club, Flynn Section - 3
MCPFB function - 1
United Woodlawn Conference - 1
Flynn Forum - 1
CCASF - 1
Total (7)

6. Reports submitted

1. Written - 10
2. Oral reduced to writing - 6
Total (16)

7. Information furnished of unusual value

Does not apply.

8. Approximate number of persons
on whom informant reported
and their importance

Forty-nine, of which approximately 43 are Security
Index subjects, the remainder being considered for Security
Index inclusion.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI [REDACTED]

DATE: December 10, 1957

FROM : SAC, CHICAGO [REDACTED]

CONF INLT

SUBJECT: [REDACTED]

Remylet dated September 13, 1957.

1. Residence and employment

No change.

2. Current membership in subversive organizations

A. Member of club

Name unknown of the Flynn Section, Communist Party of Illinois.

B. Official member of the staff

Midwest Committee for Protection of Foreign Born, Chicago, Illinois.

3. Summary of information furnished

[REDACTED] has furnished information during the pertinent period concerning the following:

Midwest Committee for Protection of Foreign Born
 Flynn Section, CP of Illinois
 Cominfil, ILGWU
 Lozoya Defense Committee
 Chicago Council of American-Soviet Friendship
 United Woodlawn Conference
 ("Flynn Forum")
 Information concerning members of the CP, USA and
 specifically Security Index subjects of the Flynn
 Section, CP of Illinois.

4. Amounts paid

Month

August 13,
 1957 to
 September 13,
 1957

RECORDED - 19
 EX-131
 Services

(previously reported)

2 DEC 12 1957
 Expenses

COMM - FBI
 DEC 16 1957
 MAILED 30

76 DEC 24 1957
 Bureau (REGISTERED)

HSN: amk

(3)

MAIL ROOM ☒

APPROVED
 Date

DEC 16 1957

Johnson
 331-OPG

EXP. PROC.

CG [redacted]

b2

12. All Necessary Action Taken
on Information Furnished.

All information furnished by HOLMES has been properly channelized and appropriate action has been taken.

13. Miscellaneous

Informant has been very responsive to the contacting agent's guidance and has initiated action on her own only after advise and counsel of contacting agent.

In view of HOLMES' activity in the I.L.G.W.U., the Bureau's policy on labor-management relationship has been fully explained to her. ||

Further, in view of HOLMES' activity in the Democratic Party, it has been explained to HOLMES that the Bureau has no interest in any legitimate political activity within legitimate political organizations.

14. Recommendation

In view of the foregoing, I recommend that HOLMES be continued as a PSI. I also recommend that authority be granted to pay HOLMES up to [redacted] to include normal expenses incurred for a period of three months effective March 10, 1957.

b2

This represents a net increase of \$1,000.00
[redacted]
W.A.

CG [REDACTED]

b2

9. Informant's Potential for Advancement

HOLMES, at this time, is in an excellent position to advance into membership in the Flynn Division, CP, USA. She has established re-contact with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] of the "Needle Club" of this Division, who are in a favorable position to recruit HOLMES into the CP.

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See Subcaption 7.

HOLMES is a recognized leader in her union, the Democratic Party, and among the Negroes of Chicago's south side area. She is intelligent, well-read and has an active and contemporary interest in politics, labor and the "Progressive Movement."

HOLMES has been in recent contact with EMANUEL BLUM, CP Organizer for Indiana, who approached HOLMES on the idea of forming a Tenants Action Council for the Hyde Park - Kenwood area of Chicago. HOLMES has been performing voluntary help at the office of the MCPFB.

10. Stability and Reliability

HOLMES' stability and reliability appear to be excellent. She is single (divorced for more than twenty years), lives alone and has no apparent emotional or domestic problems. HOLMES has indicated no problems regarding her position relevant to the Bureau, and has expressed her desire to continue to fully cooperate with the Bureau.

11. Indoctrination Against Disclosure

HOLMES has been fully and thoroughly advised of her confidential relationship and the importance of security and discretion. She has been cautioned against retention of notes or copies of reports, has been advised never to contact the office personally, and to use public telephones in her contacts with this office. She is aware that she is not a Bureau employee, that her activities are voluntary, and that her membership in any organization is not sponsored by the Bureau.

CG

b2

4. Amount Paid for Services
and Expenses by Month

HOLMES has been paid (total) for the period December 10, 1956 to date. This money has been paid for actual expenses incurred and for personal services rendered.

5. Type and Number of Meetings
Attended and Other Activity

HOLMES attended Chicago Smith Act Victims function, December 16, 1956; Midwest Committee for Protection of Foreign Born, January 12, 1957, and "Daily Worker" Banquet, February 16, 1957. Subscribes to "The Worker", the "U.S.S.R." magazine and "Friendship," CCASF monthly bulletin.

6. Number of Written and
Oral Reports Submitted

HOLMES has submitted eight oral reports during the pertinent period.

7. Information Furnished of Unusual Value

None.

HOLMES has furnished information of value pertaining to CP members of the "Needle Club," Flynn Division, CP, USA, Illinois-Indiana District. It is to be noted that this club is composed of members of the I.L.G.W.U., of which union HOLMES is a member, that there is no active live informant coverage of this Division, and that HOLMES has furnished specific information concerning members of this group, their activities and associations.

8. Approximate Number of Persons on
Whom Informant Furnished Coverage
and Their Importance

HOLMES has furnished information on approximately 33 individuals, approximately 27 of whom are Security Index subjects; the remainder being subjects considered for Security Index inclusion.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI [REDACTED]
 FROM : SAC, CHICAGO [REDACTED]
 SUBJECT: LOLA BELLE HOLMES
 PSI
 CHICAGO DIVISION

DATE: March -8, 1957

b2

Remylet to Director dated December 11, 1956,
 and rebulet to Chicago dated December 19, 1956.

1. Residence and Employment

HOLMES resides at 6116 S. Kimbark Avenue, Chicago, and has been employed as a machine operator since 1942 by LaMode Novelty Company, 320 S. Franklin Street, Chicago.

2. Current Membership in Organizations

HOLMES is presently a member of the Independent Voters of Illinois, is active in the Democratic Party and her union, the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, and is a member of Y's I's, a club at the Y.W.C.A., 59 E. Monroe, all of Chicago.

HOLMES was secretary in 1949 of the Chicago Tenants Action Council, and was active in the Progressive Party of Illinois, being an unsuccessful candidate in 1950 for Illinois State Representative and in 1952 for Illinois State Treasurer.

3. Summary of Information Furnished During Pertinent Period

HOLMES has furnished information concerning the following: Progressive Party, Chicago Tenants Action Council, Chicago Council of American-Soviet Friendship, Symposium to Form a New Broad Socialist Organization, International Ladies Garment Workers Union, Chicago Smith Act Families Committee, Midwest Committee for Protection of Foreign Born, "Daily Worker," Banquet, and information concerning members of the CP, USA, specifically Security Index subjects of the Flynn Division, CP, USA, Illinois-Indiana District, with whom HOLMES has personal acquaintance.

② - Bureau (RM)

1 - Chicago

HSN: JMK

(3)

APPROVED

MAR 13 1957

Date

MAR 13 1957

b2

Johnson

331-OPD



PROC

EXE

August 29, 1956

RECORDED-48

LOLA BELLE HOLMES
PSI

Reurlet dated August 20, 1956, requesting authority to continue contacts with Holmes to develop her as a PSI.

Authority is granted for continued contacts with her for the desired purpose. It is noted that the Bureau's policy regarding labor matters has been explained to Holmes. It is also noted that she has been advised her cooperation is voluntary and that she should not consider herself a Bureau employee. She should be thoroughly indoctrinated against disclosing her relationship with the Bureau through any media.

Use caution in your contacts with her to be certain she is not a plant and follow other instructions contained in Section 107 of the Manual of Instructions pertaining to the development of security informants.

Keep the Bureau advised concerning her development by submitting quarterly progress letters, the first of which should reach the Bureau on or before November 29, 1956.

NOTE ON YELLOW:

Holmes appeared at Chicago Office in 2-53 stating she was not and never had been a CP member but had actively participated in activities of the Progressive Party of Illinois 1948 to 1952, discontinuing such activities when she learned the Progressive Party was communist dominated. She is active in International Ladies Garment Workers Union and continues to receive CP literature, invitations to front group affairs and solicitations for contributions. On 1-23-56, she agreed to assist Bureau. Arrested 3-13-52, on charge of disorderly conduct and found not guilty. Case dismissed. Bufiles negative except for information already known to Chicago and Chicago has been so advised. Employed at La Mode Novelty Co., Chicago.

RJM:med

Olson _____
Nichols _____
Boardman _____
Belmont _____
Casper _____
Callahan _____
Conrad _____
Felt _____
Gale _____
Rosen _____
Sullivan _____
Tavel _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holmes _____
Gandy _____

SEP 4 1956

AUG 29 1956
MAILED 31

CG [REDACTED]

b2

12. All Necessary Action Taken
on Information Furnished

All information furnished by HOLMES has been properly channelized and appropriate action has been taken.

13. Miscellaneous

Informant has been very responsive to the contacting agent's guidance and has initiated action on her own only after advice and counsel of contacting agent.

In view of HOLMES' activity in the I.L.G.W.U., the Bureau's policy on labor-management relationship has been fully explained to her.

Further, in view of HOLMES' activity in the Democratic Party, it has been explained to HOLMES that the Bureau has no interest in any legitimate political activity within legitimate political organizations.

14. Recommendation

In view of the foregoing, I recommend that HOLMES be continued as a PSI.

To date, HOLMES' payments have been on SAC authority. I further recommend that authority be granted to make payments to the above Potential Security Informant up to [REDACTED] for services rendered, on a C.O.D. basis, plus [REDACTED] for expenses actually incurred, for a period of three months, effective December 10, 1956.

b2

CG [REDACTED]

b2

9. Informant's Potential for Advancement

HOLMES, at this time, is in an excellent position to advance into membership in the Elm Division CP, USA. She has established re-contact with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] of the "Needle Club" of this Division, who are in a favorable position to recruit HOLMES into the CP.

b6

b7C

See Subcaption 7.

HOLMES is a recognized leader in her union; the Democratic Party; and among the Negroes of Chicago's south side area. She is intelligent, well-read and has an active and contemporary interest in politics, labor and the "Progressive Movement."

10. Stability and Reliability

HOLMES' stability and reliability appear to be excellent. She is single (divorced for more than twenty years), lives alone and has no apparent emotional or domestic problems. HOLMES has indicated no problems regarding her position relevant to the Bureau, and has expressed her desire to continue to fully cooperate with the Bureau.

11. Indoctrination Against Disclosure

HOLMES has been fully and thoroughly advised of her confidential relationship and the importance of security and discretion. She has been cautioned against retention of notes or copies of reports, has been advised never to contact the office personally, and to use public telephones in her contacts with this office. She is aware that she is not a Bureau employee, that her activities are voluntary, and that her membership in any organization is not sponsored by the Bureau.

2-

CG [REDACTED]

b2

4. Amount Paid for Services and Expenses by Month

HOLMES has been paid [REDACTED] for September, October and November, 1956, a total of [REDACTED] for the three months period. All money has been paid for actual expenses incurred.

5. Type and Number of Meetings Attended and Other Activity

HOLMES has attended one meeting of the Symposium to Form a New Broad Socialist Organization, held on October 5, 1956 in Chicago, two functions of the CCASF, and is a subscriber to "The Worker," the "U.S.S.R." magazine, and "Friendship", the CCASF monthly bulletin.

6. Number of Written and Oral Reports Submitted

HOLMES has submitted five oral reports during the pertinent period.

7. Information Furnished of Unusual Value

None.

HOLMES has furnished information of value pertaining to CP members of the "Needle Club," Flynn Division, CP, USA, Ill.-Ind. Dist. It is to be noted that this club is composed of members of the I.L.G.W.U., of which union HOLMES is a member, that there is no active live informant coverage of this Division, and that HOLMES has furnished specific information concerning members of this group, their activities and associations.

8. Approximate Number of Persons on Whom Informant Furnished Coverage and Their Importance

HOLMES has furnished information on approximately 34 individuals, approximately 28 of whom are Security Index subjects; the remainder being subjects being considered for Security Index inclusion.

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI
 FROM : SAC, CHICAGO
 SUBJECT: LOLA BELLE HOLMES
 PSI
 CHICAGO DIVISION

DATE: December 11, 1956

b2

Rebulet dated August 29, 1956.

1. Residence and Employment

HOLMES resides at 6116 S. Kimbark Avenue, Chicago, and has been employed as a machine operator since 1942 by LaMode Novelty Company, 320 S. Franklin Street, Chicago.

2. Current Membership in Organizations

HOLMES is presently a member of the Independent Voters of Illinois, is active in the Democratic Party and her union, the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, and is a member of Y's I's, a club at the Y.W.C.A., 59 E. Monroe, all of Chicago.

HOLMES was secretary in 1949 of the Chicago Tenants Action Council, and was active in the Progressive Party of Illinois, being an unsuccessful candidate in 1950 for Illinois State Representative and in 1952 for Illinois State Treasurer.

3. Summary of Information Furnished During Pertinent Period

HOLMES has furnished information concerning the following: Progressive Party, Chicago Tenants Action Council, Chicago Council of American-Soviet Friendship, Symposium to Form a New Broad Socialist Organization, International Ladies Garment Workers Union, and information concerning members of the CP, USA, specifically, Security Index subjects of the Flynn Division, CP, USA, Illinois-Indiana District, with whom HOLMES has personal acquaintance.

RECORDED - 97

2 - Bureau (RM)
 1 - Chicago

HSN:JMK
 (3)

5 DEC 14 1956

b2

EX-125

[Handwritten signature]
 DEC 14 1956

EXP. PROC.

338 to Chicago
 12 19 56
 BER: bad

1 - Mr. Rose

SAC, CHICAGO

December 19, 1956

RECORDED
EX-125

DIRECTOR, FBI

LOLA HEILE HOLMES
PSI

Reurlet December 11, 1956.

Based on your personal recommendation, authority is granted to make payments to Lola Holmes on a c.o.d. basis up to [redacted] for information furnished and services rendered, plus up to [redacted] for expenses actually incurred for a period of three months effective December 10, 1956.

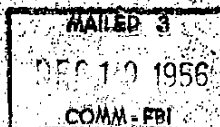
Two weeks prior to the expiration of the above authorized period, you should submit an informative summary of information furnished by Lola Holmes, together with your recommendation regarding the continuation of payments to her.

1 - Mr. J. S. Johnson
Room 331 - OPO

NOTE ON YELLOW:

Holmes contacted the Chicago Office during February, 1953, and voluntarily furnished information regarding the Progressive Party of Illinois. On 1-23-56 she was recontacted and agreed to assist the Bureau. She has been under development as a PSI since August 29, 1956. She is employed at the La Mode Novelty, Chicago, Illinois. No apparent weaknesses noted.

BFR:baa
(5)



Olson _____
Nichols _____
Hardman _____
Belmont _____
Rosen _____
Tamm _____
Trotter _____
Tele. Room _____
Holloman _____
Gandy _____

DEC 18 4 38 PM '56

EST. 102111CE
FBI - CHICAGO

NUMEROUS REFERENCE

4-22

SEARCH SLIP

Subj: Lola Belle Holmes

Supervisor _____

Room _____

R# _____

Date 2-15

Searcher _____

Initial 8100

FILE NUMBER

SERIAL

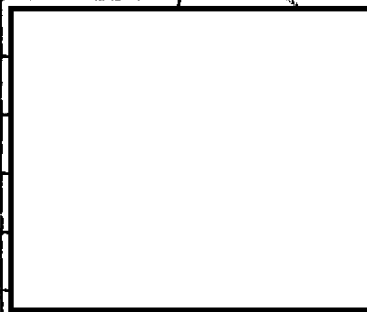
Mrs. Frank

NI

NR

NR

NI



b6
b7C

File
RH

4-22 (6-15-55)

Federal Bureau of Investigation
Records Section

, 1955

☐ Name Check Unit - Room 6523
☐ Attention _____
☐ Service Unit - Room 6524 **95892**
☒ Forward to File Review
☐ Return to _____ Ext. _____
Supervisor _____
Room _____

☒ All References
☐ Subversive References
☐ Main _____ References Only
☐ Restrict to Locality of _____
☐ Breakdown ☐ Buildup ☐ Variations
☐ Exact Name Only
☐ Exact Spelling
☐ Check for Alphabetical Loyalty Form

SUBJECT *Lola Belle Thomas*
Address *FEB 16 1956*

Localities _____
Birthdate & Place *2-22-12 Ga*

RA *(initials)* Date *2-15* Searcher Initial *100*
FILE NUMBER SERIAL

VE *100-357934-680 p19,162*
BT *65-59122-138 p24,25,27*
VI *100-357934-100 p5,26,52*
VE *100-363436-123 p13,10*
VI *100-870471-2 p11,15,16*
VI *100-357934-151 p3,14,15 p2*
182 p3

VI *Lola B. Bell* *(can)*
SI *100-364439-26 p39*
SI *100-357934-939 p20,21,25*

NI *[Redacted]* *[Redacted]*

Lola B. *b2*
NR
Lola

NI *[Redacted]* *b6*
NI *[Redacted]* *b7C*
NI *[Redacted]*

L. Bell *NR*
Belle *NR*
Bell

NI *[Redacted]* *file*
NR

DIRECTOR, FBI

RE: LOLA BELLE HOLMES
PSI

95891

In view of the above, it is recommended that authorization be granted to develop LOLA BELLE HOLMES as a Potential Security Informant in the Chicago Division.

HOLMES advised that she would keep contact confidential and if approved for recontact she will be indoctrinated at every opportunity in regard to keeping her contacts with this office on a confidential basis. If approved, care will be taken to insure that she is not a plant.

During the course of instant contact with HOLMES there was no indication of any domestic difficulties, personal weaknesses, instability or anything that could cause embarrassment to the Bureau.

DIRECTOR, FBI

RE: LOLA BELLE HOLMES
PSI

95890

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Social Security No. | 352-16-9338 |
| Residence | 5468 South Kenwood |
| Telephone | Midway 3-7798 |
| Former residences | 5306 Calumet Avenue; 6129 Vernon Avenue; 640 East 50th Street; 6020 South Indiana; 541 1/2 West 56th Place, all located in Chicago. |

References in the Chicago files reflect HOLMES' participation in the Progressive Party of Illinois and attendance at meetings of other CP front groups. There is no indication in the Chicago files that HOLMES was ever a member of the Communist Party or that she ever attended a Communist Party meeting.

A check at the Chicago Police Department, Bureau of Records and Communications, on January 4, 1955, reflects that LOLA BELLE HOLMES, 6020 South Indiana Avenue, Chicago, was arrested on March 13, 1952, charged with being disorderly. *details*
The records further reflect that HOLMES was discharged April 14, 1952.

A check of the Chicago Credit Bureau, Inc., on January 4, 1955, reflects that LOLA BELLE HOLMES, of 5468 Kenwood Avenue, had an adverse account with Spiegel and Company in 1950.

A current informant canvass with the following confidential informants, who are generally aware of CP and CP front group activity in the Chicago area and who have furnished reliable information in the past, failed to reflect any recent activity on the part of HOLMES. b2
b7D

In evaluating the interview with HOLMES it is pointed out that she is an intelligent, mature and emotionally stable individual. She is well known and has a wide following among the Negro people in Chicago. Although HOLMES has been inactive in CP front groups in the past three years, it is believed that she would experience no difficulty in re-newing her old contacts and could soon be in a position to assist this office in a valuable manner.

DIRECTOR, FBI

RE: LOLA BELLE HOLMES
PSI

95889

HOLMES furnished the following literature in conjunction with this interview: Tickets to an affair sponsored by the CCASF which affair was to be held 11/18/55; a ticket to the 32nd Birthday Party of the "Daily Worker" held in Chicago on 1/14/56, and a subscription application to the magazine "Friendship" published by the CCASF in Chicago. In addition, she furnished the December, 1955 and January, 1956 editions of "Friendship" magazine.

The literature concerning the CCASF was received by HOLMES by mail, however, the ticket to the "Daily Worker" affair was given HOLMES by [redacted] a known CP member and a former CP leader in the garment industry in Chicago.

b6
b7c

During the course of this interview HOLMES furnished the following background information concerning herself:

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Name | LOLA BELLE HOLMES |
| Age | 44 |
| Born | April 22, 1912, Waterproof, Louisiana. |
| Employment | La Mode Novelty Company 320 South Franklin Street Chicago (1942 to date); |
| Marital status | Single (divorced) |
| Former husband | FRANK HOLMES |
| Education | Central High School, Shreveport, Louisiana; Roosevelt College, Chicago, part time; University of Wisconsin, part time. |
| Relatives | Daughter - JOAN MARTIN WILEY, 6440 Greenwood Avenue, Chicago. 11. |
| Race | Negro |
| Sex | Female |
| Height | 5' 6" |
| Weight | 130 |
| Complexion | Medium |
| Hair | Black |
| Eyes | Brown |

b2

Mrs. Frank Holmes

DIRECTOR, FBI

RE: LOLA BELLE HOLMES
PSI

95888

She advised that she would be happy to furnish this literature to the FBI, but requested that she not be contacted until after the middle of January as she was engaged in negotiating the unions annual contract and due to her holiday plans.

On January 23, 1956, HOLMES was contacted by SA'S [redacted] and AUGUST J. BAUMGARTNER at her residence, 5468 South Kenwood Avenue, Chicago. b6 b7C

HOLMES reiterated her Progressive Party activities and association with Communist Party members in 1948 and 1950. She stated that since the 1952 election she had taken no active part in politics and had withdrawn from her former associates in the Progressive Party. HOLMES stated that although she has ceased her political activity she continues to receive invitations and requests for contributions from organizations which she feels are CP fronts. She specifically stated that she had recently received tickets to an affair sponsored by the Chicago Council of American-Soviet Friendship and that in the Fall of 1955 had been approached for a donation to the Lightfoot Defense Committee. HOLMES expressed her willingness to be of assistance to the FBI in any way that she could be of service.

At this point HOLMES was advised of the Bureau's jurisdiction in espionage, sabotage and matters concerning the security of the country.

It was explained to HOLMES that the Bureau had no interest in legitimate employee-employer relations nor in union matters. The agents also explained to HOLMES any assistance she gave to the FBI was voluntary on her part and that she should not consider herself an employee of the FBI.

During the course of this interview HOLMES mentioned names of individuals known to her as or suspected of being members of the Communist Party. In this regard it should be noted that approximately 15 of the individuals mentioned by HOLMES were persons reflected in the files of the Chicago office as being members of the Communist Party or active in CP front groups in the Chicago area.

DIRECTOR, FBI

RE: LOLA BELLE HOLMES
PSI

refused to withdraw from the race and as a result both she and PARKS were defeated. 95887

HOLMES stated that at that time she first realized that the Progressive Party of Illinois was dominated by the Communist Party.

HOLMES stated that in 1952 she again became a candidate on the Progressive Party ticket for the office of State Treasurer, without the support of the Communist Party. Following her defeat she ceased all activity with the Progressive Party.

HOLMES stated that she had devoted the past ten years toward union activities and that in 1952 she was an executive board member of Local 212, ILGWU in Chicago. HOLMES stated that it was her desire to further advance herself within her union. During this interview HOLMES advised that while she was willing to help the FBI she felt that in view of her complete break with leaders within the progressive movement and their attitude toward her at that time, she did not believe she could be of any assistance to the Bureau.

On December 15, 1955, [redacted] of Locals 208 and 212, ILGWU, appeared at the Chicago office of the FBI and stated that LOLA BELLE HOLMES had been nominated to a responsible position in his union and that she would be required to execute a non-Communist affidavit. [redacted] specifically requested information as to whether or not the FBI could advise him if HOLMES was a member of the Communist Party. The confidential nature of the Bureau's files was explained to [redacted] and no information was furnished to him. b6 b7C

On December 22, 1955, LOLA BELLE HOLMES telephonically contacted SA AUGUST J. BAUMGARTNER at which time she advised that she had recently executed a non-Communist affidavit at the request of her union and that she wished, in view of her previous contact with the FBI, to advise that she continues to receive unsolicited literature from organizations she believes to be Communist in nature. She repeated that she is not now or has never been a CP member.

FEB 15 1956

Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : DIRECTOR, FBI

FROM : SAC, CHICAGO [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: LOLA BELLE HOLMES
PSI
O.O. Chicago

DATE: February 7, 1956

b2

95886

In 1952 a case file was opened on the above captioned individual based upon allegations that she was a member of the Communist Party. Subsequent investigation failed to reflect any Communist Party activity and no report was submitted to the Bureau.

In February 1953 the subject appeared at the Chicago office at which time she stated that she was experiencing difficulty in connection with her union work due to her past political activities with the Progressive Party of Illinois. HOLMES stated that as a result of this activity an official of her union, the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, suggested that she come to the FBI and explain to the Bureau the extent of her past activities.

On this occasion HOLMES gave the following information:

She stated that she was not and never had been a member of the CP and had never knowingly attended any CP meetings. She advised that she had participated in the activities of the Progressive Party of Illinois in 1948 and that she had established a large following of voters in support of HENRY WALLACE in the 1948 presidential election. HOLMES explained that her purpose in working within the Progressive Party was because she felt that this party offered the most satisfactory platform to the people of the Negro race. HOLMES stated that in 1950 she was the Progressive Party candidate for the office of State Representative from the 5th Senatorial District of Illinois. In 1952 HOLMES was the Progressive Party candidate for the office of Illinois State Treasurer.

In connection with the 1950 election, HOLMES stated that after she had been nominated for the office of State Representative on the Progressive Party ticket she was approached by the Communist Party and asked to withdraw from the campaign in order that SAM PARKS, a known CP leader, could become the Progressive Party candidate. HOLMES

② - Bureau (REGISTERED)
2 - Chicago 1 - 100-22483
RLD:LMA
(4)

RECORDED

SE 43

Ex. 124 25 FEB 9 1956

Attended to SAC, Chicago
2/23/56
RHH